



## **Students - Series 3000** **Admission & Qualifications for Attendance – 3110P**

### **Procedures for Early Entrance to Kindergarten**

The Washington State Board of Education requires that Children reach their fifth birthday on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> of the coming school year, before they may be permitted to enter kindergarten. However, an exception to this age requirement may be granted by the District for a child whose birthday falls between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, and who demonstrates advanced skills through assessment in several areas.

Parents who wish to apply for this exception for their child must complete an application form and submit it to the Director of Student Services Applications must be received from May 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Applications for residents who move in to the District during the summer will be accepted between August 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Research and experience in education and child development have shown that the child who is younger than his or her classmates is at a greater risk for academic and social challenges than the child who is either age-appropriate or somewhat older.

When a family requests early entrance to Kindergarten, initial contact is made with the office of Student Services.

- If the child meets the birthdate eligibility criteria, the parent/guardian of the child will be sent the Early Entrance into Kindergarten application packet.
  - Parents may also access the Early Entrance to Kindergarten application packet online at [www.psd401.net/parents-students/registration/kindergarten-registration2](http://www.psd401.net/parents-students/registration/kindergarten-registration2). The Peninsula School District will provide an assessment team to conduct the assessments. A \$150.00 fee is required at the time of testing to cover the cost of the assessment. If the fee is beyond the family's financial means, they may request a waiver of fees. Families who qualify for reduced lunch will have their fee reduced to \$50.00. Families who qualify for free lunch will have the entire fee waived.
2. The Student Services office will coordinate with the Early Entrance Assessment team and the family to determine the place and time of the assessment. All testing will be done during regular working hours and at a PSD office or school.
  3. Qualification for early entrance to kindergarten will be on a rubric based on a variety of school readiness attributes including a standardized cognitive assessment, school readiness skills, behavioral observations and early learning experiences.

Early Entrance to Kindergarten Rubric					
Component	Rubric Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
Cognitive Assessment Score	100-106	107-112	113-118	119-123	124
School Readiness Skills	70%	75%	80%	90%	95%
Behavioral Observations	70%	75%	80%	90%	95%
Early Learning Experiences	No group experiences	Less than 1 year of regular group experiences (t-ball, Sunday School, Swimming lessons, etc.)	6 months of formal preschool or daycare OR more than 1 year of regular group experiences	6 months to 1 year of formal preschool or day care	More than 1 year of formal preschool/ daycare

Pro-Rated Birthday Scale:

Birth date range	Combined points needed to qualify
September 01-September 15	12 or more
September 16-October 15	16 or more
October 16-October 31	17-20

4. Families are notified of the testing results by mail and/or email approximately 2 weeks from the testing date. There are two possible outcomes of the individual testing:
  - The student did not demonstrate above average skills and is not recommended for early entrance into kindergarten, or;
  - The student did demonstrate above average skills and is recommended for early entrance to kindergarten. Families of students found eligible for early entrance must complete the regular registration process through their neighborhood school to enroll the student into a kindergarten program for the following school year.
5. Students who meet eligibility criteria will be placed in a K classroom for 30 calendar days to evaluate the appropriateness of placement. At the end of the trial period, a school team will meet to review your child's performance in the classroom and determine final placement. The school team will communicate the final decision to the parent and/or guardian.

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